Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF REV. JAMES SPROAT, HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN OF THE MIDDLE DEPARTMENT, 1778.

BY JOHN W. JORDAN.

[The Rev. James Sproat, D.D. (Princeton), was born April 11, 1722, at Scituate, Massachusetts; graduated at Yale, 1741; died October 18, 1793, at Philadelphia, of yellow fever. He entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, in Connecticut, in 1743, and in 1768 succeeded the Rev. Gilbert Tennent as pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. Dr. Sproat was elected by Congress, February 10, 1778, a Chaplain for the Hospitals in the Middle Department, located in Philadelphia, Northampton, Berks, Lancaster, and Chester Counties, and served until 1781. After the evacuation of Philadelphia by the British forces, with his family, he returned and resumed the pastorate of his congregation until 1787. He also continued his weekly visitations to the sick and wounded in the Bettering House, and statedly to the hospitals in the country until they were abandoned,—the hospital at the Yellow Springs being the last. His journal covering the period between 1779 and 1781, although noting his visits to the hospitals, lacks the interesting details recorded in the year 1778, and is mainly devoted to his labors in his congregation. For additional details relating to the hospitals at Bethlehem and Lititz, see PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE, Vol. XX. page 137.]

1778, April 1.—Rode to Easton and lodged at my good friends the Barnhills.

April 2.—To Bethlehem, traveling very bad; dined with Doctors Finley and Hall. In the afternoon discoursed and prayed with the sick in their different wards, that were unable to attend sermon. Drank tea with Dr. Otto. Lodged at the tavern; the company of Mr. Caldwell and Dr. Dayton rendered the evening agreeable.

April 3.—Preached to the convalescents, upwards of 100, and then dined with the doctors. After dinner rode to Allentown, lodged at Mr. Cowell's, and called on Dr. Smith.

April 4.—Visited, discoursed and prayed with the sick.

April 14.—Rode to Reading; visited the Hospital, discoursed with all the patients. Preached in the afternoon, and again visited the sick. Found a number of friends from Philadelphia here.

April 17.—At Dunkertown [Ephrata]; visited and prayed with all the sick; preached in the Hospital. Dr. Scott is the senior doctor here, a worthy, good man.

April 18.—Rode 12 miles to Schaefferstown; visited the Hospital. Preached in the Dutch Church, where all that were able were paraded and attended in good order. Lodged with Dr. Glentworth, and met Gen. McIntosh.

April 19.—To Lititz, where I dined with Dr. Alison, who is the senior doctor here. Visited the Hospital, prayed with the sick; at 3 o'clock preached to the convalescents.

April 20.—Rode to Lancaster in company with Mr. Mackey, father of Mrs. Alison. Dined with Dr. Jackson, then visited the Hospital and prayed in the different wards.

April 21.—Preached in the Barracks to all convalescents that were able to attend. Lodged at J. B. Smith's; dined at Mr. Harbinson's, drank tea at Mrs. Rhea's. Met many of my Philadelphia friends. About 203 patients in the Hospital.

April 25.—This day rode to the Yellow Springs; visited the Hospital, conversed and prayed with the sick, that were not able to attend the sermon. Lodged with Dr. Kennedy.

April 26.—This Hospital seems to be very neat, and the sick comfortably provided for. This evening rode three miles to see my old friend William Ralston and his family, and was kindly received.

April 27.—Mr. Ralston rode with me to French Creek Church. William Smith and G. Tennent doctors here—the senior doctor is abroad. This Hospital very neat and clean, and the sick seem well attended. Here I met again Gen. McIntosh, who is visiting the Hospitals in an official capacity. According to my usual custom, first visited and then conversed with the sick and wounded in their wards,

in the forenoon; in the afternoon preached to them all in the Church.

April 28.—Rode to the camp at Valley Forge—was a good deal pleased with the situation of the camp. Met my son [Captain William Sproat, Fourth Pennsylvania Line] in health. Heard from my family at Egg Harbor. Dined with my nephew Col. [Ebenezer] Sproat [Twelfth Massachusetts Line], my son, and several gentlemen. Went over the Schuylkill to get lodgings. Lodged at Gen. [Joseph] Reed's where I met good Mrs. de Bert; called on Hugh Hodge. Nighted at W. Henry's.

April 30.—Applied to Gen. Greene and Col. John Cox for wagons to transport my goods from Swedes Ford to the Forks of Delaware, which was granted.

May 2.—At Bethlehem—The Hospital has been removed from this place; only a few invalids remain. Called to see Capt. Balding, who had his leg amputated since I was here last; conversed and prayed with him, and then rode to Easton.

June 9.—Sat out for the Hospitals; dined at Allentown.

June 10.—At French Creek; lodged with the Commissary.

June 11.—Visited the Hospitals, saw Doctors Smith, Rogers and Tennent. In the forenoon preached in one of the Hospitals, Dr. Smith accompanied me. This Hospital very airy and clean; about 66 patients in it. Returned to the other, met my son Billy. He and I dined with the doctor; preached at the other Hospital, a church, clean and airy; 96 patients in it. Dr. Binney, the senior, came in in time for the service. Drank tea with the doctors and my son, after which parted with my son. Rode a mile with Dr. Binney and lodged at his house. He is genteel, learned and hospitable, and his lady from the city.

June 12.—Rode to Yellow Springs, lit at Dr. Kennedy's, who, poor gentleman is very sick. Visited Dr. Otto. Dined at Dr. Kennedy's, and afterwards preached in the Hospital, which is new and airy, but not finished. Smoked a pipe,

and then preached to a number in an adjacent barn. Many sick here, though clean and airy. Drank tea with the doctors and matron. In the evening returned to Dr Kennedy's, who is no better.

June 13.—Understand the doctor is no better. After breakfast preached in the upper gallery of the Hospital. Genteely treated by Dr. Otto and the matron, Mrs. Adams. Preached in a barn before dinner. After dinner preached in another barn. In these barns there are 182 patients. Took a little spirits and rode to a third barn and preached again. The barns clean and airy, and in good order. Doctors Fallon, senior; Halling and Cowell, juniors; White and Marshall mates. Rode to the Red Lion, where Dr Latimer is senior, and lodged at the Tavern.

June 14.—Preached forenoon to the patients, 127, in the Quaker meeting which is used as a hospital. Doctors Latimer, senior, [*torn*] juniors, Mates Bull and Tobin. Dined with the doctors and later preached in the barn.

June 17.—Returned to Lancaster, dined at Mr. Purdie's, called to see Mrs. Rhea, Capt. Harvey and others. Lodged at S. B. Smith's.

June 18.—Breakfasted at Mr. Harbinson's; called to pay my compliments to Mr. Hancock, also on Mr. Taggert. Rode to Manheim, dined with Mrs. Shippen, old Dr. Shippen, the former paid me $240., but could not settle with respect to rations. Rode to Lititz, put up at Dr. Alison's. Spent the evening with Dr Brown, the Physician General.

June 19.—Preached in the forenoon to the patients, dined with Dr. Brown. Detained by the rain.

June 20.—Still raining and could not set out. This evening Mr. Mackey brought us the news of the evacuation of the city by the enemy.

July 29.—Set out for the Hospitals, via Philadelphia.

August 4.—Rode to Dr. Glentworth's in the rain and got wet. Could not speak to the invalids owing to indisposition, and kindly treated by the Doctor. About 70 in the hospital; 30 expect to be sent away soon.

August 5.—Preached at the Hospitals. Dr. Glentworth rode with me to camp, stopped at Col. Craig's quarters, and then proceeded to Yellow Springs.

August 6.—Feeling better, preached to seventy patients. Rode to Uchlan, dined with Doctors Brown and Fallon. The house very clean, preached, and then to Downingtown and lodged with Dr. Smith.

August 7.—Arose early, preached at 8 o'clock to the 74 patients here, and after the sermon proceeded to Philadelphia.

September 7.—Set out for the Hospital at Philadelphia.

September 11.—Visited and preached to the sick at the Bettering House.

September 14.—Rode to French Creek, and on

September 15, preached to the 138 patients in the Hospital, who seem to be well attended by the physicians. Rode to the Yellow Springs in the afternoon, and preached in the hospital. Will return to Philadelphia in the morning.

October 1.—Returned with my family to Philadelphia from the Forks of Delaware.

October 13.—Set out for the Hospitals in the country. Preach at the Yellow Springs to the 115 sick and 16 guards.

October 14.—Rode to French Creek and preach to 89 sick. Lodged with Doctors Smith and Tennent.